

What is claimed is:

1. A method of placing a medical device in a human blood vessel, the method comprising: introducing the distal end of a guiding catheter into the patients vasculature; magnetically navigating the distal end of the guiding catheter into the target vessel; deploying the medical device from the distal end of the guiding catheter.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the medical device is magnetically advanced beyond the distal tip of the guiding catheter.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the guiding catheter is advanced by magnetically navigating a stylette placed within the guiding catheter, the stylette being removed before the medical device is advanced through the guiding catheter.

4. The method of claim 1 in which the medical device is a pacing lead.

5. The method of claim 1 in which the medical device is a stent delivery system.

6. The method of claim 1 in which the medical device is an atherectomy tool.

7. The method of claim 1 in which the medical device is a flexible endoscope

8. A method of placing a pacing lead in the heart, the method comprising: introducing a the distal end of a delivery catheter into the patient's vasculature; magnetically navigating distal end of the delivery catheter to the patient's heart; deploying a pacing lead from the distal end of the delivery catheter; and magnetically navigating the pacing lead to the pacing application site.

9. The method according to claim 8 wherein the step of magnetically navigating the distal end of the delivery catheter to the patient's heart comprises extending a guide wire having a magnetically responsive seed thereon through the lumen of the delivery catheter; applying a magnetic field to orient the seed on the guide wire in the desired direction, advancing the guide wire in the desired direction relative to the delivery catheter, and advancing the delivery catheter over the guide wire.

10. The method according to claim 8 wherein the step of magnetically navigating the distal end of the delivery catheter to the patient's heart comprises providing a

magnetically responsive seed in the lumen of the delivery catheter adjacent the distal end, the magnetic seed having a tether thereon, applying a magnetic field to orient the seed, and thus the distal end portion of the delivery catheter in the desired direction, advancing the catheter in the desired direction, and further comprising the step of removing the magnetically responsive seed from the lumen of the catheter with the tether when the distal end of the delivery catheter is in the desired location in the heart.

11. The method according to claim 8 wherein the step of magnetically navigating the distal end of the delivery catheter to the patient's heart comprises inserting a stylette having a magnetically responsive seed thereon into the lumen of the delivery catheter so that the seed is adjacent the distal end, applying a magnetic field to orient the seed, and thus the distal end portion of the delivery catheter in the desired direction, advancing the catheter in the desired direction by pushing the catheter and/or the stylette, and further comprising the step of removing the stylette from the lumen of the when the distal end of the delivery catheter is in the desired location in the heart.

12. The method according to claim 8 wherein the delivery catheter comprises an inflatable balloon adjacent the distal end, and wherein the step of magnetically navigating the distal end of the delivery catheter to the patient's heart comprises inflating the balloon with a magnetically responsive material, applying a magnetic field to orient the balloon on the distal end portion of the delivery catheter in the desired direction, advancing the catheter in the desired direction; and further comprising the step of removing the magnetically responsive material from the balloon when the distal end of the delivery catheter is in the desired location in the heart.

13. The method according to claim 8 wherein the step of magnetically navigating the pacing lead to the pacing site comprises extending a guide wire having a magnetically responsive seed thereon through the lumen of the pacing lead; applying a magnetic field to orient the seed on the guide wire in the desired direction, advancing the guide wire in the desired direction relative to the pacing lead, and advancing the pacing lead over the guide wire.

14. The method according to claim 8 wherein the step of magnetically navigating the pacing lead to the pacing site comprises providing a magnetically responsive seed in

the lumen of the pacing lead adjacent the distal end, the magnetic seed having a tether thereon, applying a magnetic field to orient the seed, and thus the distal end portion of the pacing lead in the desired direction, advancing the pacing lead in the desired direction, and further comprising the step of removing the magnetically responsive seed from the lumen of the pacing lead with the tether when the distal end of the pacing lead is in the desired location at the pacing site.

15. The method according to claim 8 wherein the step of magnetically navigating the pacing lead to the pacing site comprises inserting a stylette having a magnetically responsive seed thereon into the lumen of the pacing lead so that the seed is adjacent the distal end, applying a magnetic field to orient the seed, and thus the distal end portion of the pacing lead in the desired direction, advancing the catheter in the desired direction by pushing the catheter and/or the stylette, and further comprising the step of removing the stylette from the lumen of the pacing lead when the distal end of the pacing lead catheter is in the desired location at the pacing site.

16. The method according to claim 8 wherein the pacing lead includes a magnetically responsive body, and wherein the step of magnetically navigating the pacing lead to the pacing site comprises applying a magnetic field to orient the balloon on the distal end portion of the delivery catheter in the desired direction, advancing the pacing lead in the desired direction.

17. The method according to claim 8 wherein the magnet body on the pacing lead loses responsiveness with time.